

From: Fader
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 8:36am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust trial. I am a recently graduated computer programmer, working in Beckley, WV.

I do not feel that the proposed settlement truly addresses the anticompetitive actions that Microsoft has taken. Speaking for myself, at the moment, I know better than to even try to write a new, unique piece of software. If I write a program that competes with a Microsoft product, they will drive me out of business by integrating their product into their operating system, something I cannot do without access to their source code. If I write a program that adds new functionality, they will quickly write a knockoff version of my product and again integrate it with their operating system.

This is not mere paranoia, and this behavior has not stopped since the trial. Ask Kodak, who invested a great deal of time and money into creating digital camera software to work with Windows. They worked closely with Microsoft, and were quite happy -- until Windows XP came out, and Microsoft had included a product that mirrored what Kodak had written integrated with the operating system.

This is just one example out of many. This trial has implications far beyond Microsoft and Netscape. I know many developers who feel the same way that I do. We are afraid to innovate, because our hard work will be stolen or driven into the ground.

Thank you, and I hope you will do the right thing and reexamine this settlement.

Sincerely,

Ronald McCollam II
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